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7 AUG 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment
FROM: Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT: Soviet Air Defenses

I would appreciate it if you would ask OSR, OWI and any others involved to sit down and have a brief round-table on the question of whether air defenses will become more important or less for the Soviet Union if we transition from bombers to cruise missiles. What I am really interested in learning is what the factors are that will determine if air defenses will play a major role against the cruise missile. We have some difficult decisions to make about intelligence collection capabilities in the future. I'm concerned with whether it is going to continue to be as critical with cruise missiles as it has been with bombers to know the precise location and characteristics of Soviet air defense systems. Initially, at least, I am simply looking for a rather brief paper that will review the factors that should determine whether we will pay more or less attention to the location and characteristics of Soviet air defenses in the decade ahead.

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STANSFIELD TURNER

cc: D/OSR
D/OWI

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